

## **Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)**

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### **Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) Communication Skills Academic Credit**

Speaking and writing skills hours taught at our CCAF-affiliated EPME schools do not satisfy CCAF's oral or written communication *general education* degree requirements. However, CCAF *does* award degree-applicable, academic credit in "Managerial Communications" for the communication skills hours taught at three levels of EPME: the Airman Leadership School, the NCO Academy, and the Senior NCO Academy. This credit is similar to Business or Managerial Communications offered at traditional civilian colleges. Business or Managerial Communications does not satisfy the *general education* requirements at CCAF or most other regionally-accredited colleges. This type of credit can generally be applied to satisfy the technical, management (LMMS), or program elective CCAF degree requirements.

There are two reasons CCAF doesn't award *general education* credit for EPME. The first is accreditation. The vast majority of CCAF's EPME faculty, although excellent instructors, do not carry credentials (degrees) commensurate with teaching general education courses as required by Air University's regional accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Most CCAF instructors hold 2-year degrees rather than the SACS standard of a doctor's or master's degree in the teaching discipline or a master's degree with an 18-hour concentration in the teaching discipline. The second reason is that public law prohibits AU and CCAF from offering courses not uniquely related to our military mission. Courses such as public speaking and English composition would be in direct competition with those offered at local civilian colleges and violates CCAF's charter. Therefore, CCAF students complete general education degree requirements by transferring acceptable courses from civilian colleges or by passing nationally-recognized examinations (CLEP, DSST, or Excelsior).

Our EPME schools provide outstanding foundational learning in the area of work-related spoken and written communication. This CCAF-awarded credit is degree-applicable and valuable. For students who have not yet completed CCAF's oral or written communication general education requirements, it's highly recommended they challenge the CLEP, DSST, or Excelsior examinations as soon as possible upon EPME graduation. The CCAF *general education* degree requirements, to include oral (Public Speaking) and written (English Composition) communications, strengthen our degree programs and add value to the student's earned academic credential—the CCAF associate in applied science degree.